

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THESSA 00218 311755Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 (ISO) W

----- 047462

P 311545Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2299

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0218

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN GREECE

REF: 1) THESSALONIKI'S 0213 2) ATHENS 2474

1. MARCH 30 NATIONWIDE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OBSERVED  
IN THESSALONIKI AND OTHER NORTHERN CENTERS IN ATMOSPHERE  
OF SUNDAY CALM, WITH NO DISTURBANCES REPORTED.

2. ONLY LOCAL PAPER PUBLISHED TODAY ("THESSALONIKI") HEADLINED  
"PEOPLE GAVE VOTE TO DEMOCRATIC SLATES" AND "ELECTION  
RESULTS INTERPRETED AS DEMAND FOR DEJUNTIZATION AND  
DEMOCRATIZATION---APPLIES BOTH TO MUNICIPALITIES AND  
VILLAGE COMMUNITIES". IN LARGER COMMUNITIES WHERE  
MAYORAL CANDIDATES GAINED MAJORITY, THUS PRECLUDING  
RUN-OFFS APRIL 6 (E.G., ALEXANDROUPOLIS, KOZANI,  
EDESSA, FLORINA, DRAMA, VERRIA), VICTOR WAS NORMALLY  
SUPPORTED BY CENTER UNION AND LEFT COALITION, WITH  
SOME EDA REPRESENTATION ON MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SLATE.  
OTHER MAJOR CENTERS WHERE FINAL ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD  
NEXT SUNDAY INCLUDE THESSALONIKI, KAVALLA, KILKIS,  
KATERINI, KOMOTINI, SERRES, FLORINA AND KASTORIA.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THESSA 00218 311755Z

3. IN THESSALONIKI, EXTREME LEFT CANDIDATE MICHAEL

PAPADOPOULOS, WITH DISCIPLINED PASOK AND COMMUNIST SUPPORT, LED FIELD WITH SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 27 PERCENT OF TOTAL 121 THOUSAND VOTES CAST. HE WILL BE OPPOSED IN APRIL 6 RUN-OFF BY CENTRIST LAWYER DEMETRIOS ZANNAS WHO POLLED JUST OVER 24 PERCENT OF THE BALLOTS. ZANNAS' SUPPORT ERODED BY STRONG SHOWINGS OF BOTH EX-MAYOR TSIROS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT PASCHOS (EACH 17 PERCENT). CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE GOGOUSIS PULLED UP LAME IN LAST DAYS OF CAMPAIGN (12 PERCENT PLUS), REPORTEDLY AS WHISPERS OF HIS ELAS BACKGROUND GAINED CURRENCY IN CITY (REF 1). INDEPENDENT POUNTZIKOGLOU WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF RUNNING, AS ANTICIPATED.

4. IN RUN-OFF NEXT SUNDAY, ZANNAS IS EXPECTED TO WIN DESPITE HIS UNFORTUNATE LACK OF COMMON TOUCH AND ALOOF, PATRICIAN MANNER ON THE STUMP. ALTHOUGH SOME CONCEDE PAPADOPOULOS A CHANCE, GENERAL FORECAST IS THAT PASCHOS AND GOGOUSIS VOTES WILL SWING TO ZANNAS, WITH ONLY MAXIMUM OF TWO THIRDS OF TSIROS SUPPORTERS MOVING OVER TO PAPADOPOULOS. IF THIS ANALYSIS CORRECT, PREDICTED ZANNAS VICTORY WITH APPROXIMATELY 60 PERCENT OF VOTES SHOULD HOLD UP, GIVING THESSALONIKI A MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT WITH MAJORITY CONSERVATIVE CENTER COLORATION.

5. IN SOMEWHAT SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT, EX-COMMUNIST MAYOR OF KAVALA, KONST. TSOLAKIS, CONSIDERED AN ODDS ON FAVORITE, WAS OUTPOLLED BY MODERATE CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL NEWCOMER PAVLOS KONTOMISOPOULOS 8,077 TO 7,620 OF 23,000 TOTAL VOTES CAST. THIS CONTINUES CONSERVATIVE-CENTER VICTORY TREND OVER COMMUNISTS BEGUN IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS IN WHAT WAS PRIOR TO JUNTA PERIOD SOLIDLY RED KAVALA. SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS OF KAVALA SCENE GIVE KONTOMISOPOULOS GOOD CHANCE OF DEFEATING TSOLAKIS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S RUN-OFF. BRENNAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, PRESS COMMENTS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975THESSA00218  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750111-0491  
**From:** THESSALONIKI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975031/aaaaaagh.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 THESSALONIKI'S 0213, 75 ATHENS 2474  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN GREECE  
**TAGS:** PINT, GR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006